

THE

# GATEWAY

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA AT OMAHA'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER SINCE 1913

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TUESDAY

March 28, 2006

## Gas prices prompt budget increase request

SCOTT STEWART

SENIOR STAFF WRITER / SYSTEMS MANAGER

Rising gas prices affect more than just the price at the pump.

The University of Nebraska recently requested \$4.6 million in additional funding from the state legislature to cover budget deficits stemming from soaring utilities costs.

"The university spent \$25.8 million on utility billings in FY 2004-2005," according to a news brief released by the university. "If funding is not provided, existing programs will have to be reduced or eliminated to cover these expenses. This will negatively impact programs and services provided to students and Nebraska residents."

Julie Totten, assistant vice chancellor for business and finance at UNO, said the appropriations committee recommended \$4 million.

"I think that the university is hopeful that the \$4 million appropriation holds."

If approved, the additional funding would primarily go towards electricity, natural gas, chilled water and fuel oil commodities, which accounted for 94 percent of university utility billings last fiscal year.

"The appropriation bill is still in process, but it was advanced to final reading yesterday and we expect a final vote on that appropriation bill sometime next week," Totten said Friday. "Then it would be subject to the governor's approval."

The affect of Hurricane Katrina and the subsequent supply concerns for oil and natural gas were among the reasons cited for the

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## Mavs fall: Terriers end Mavs' best season

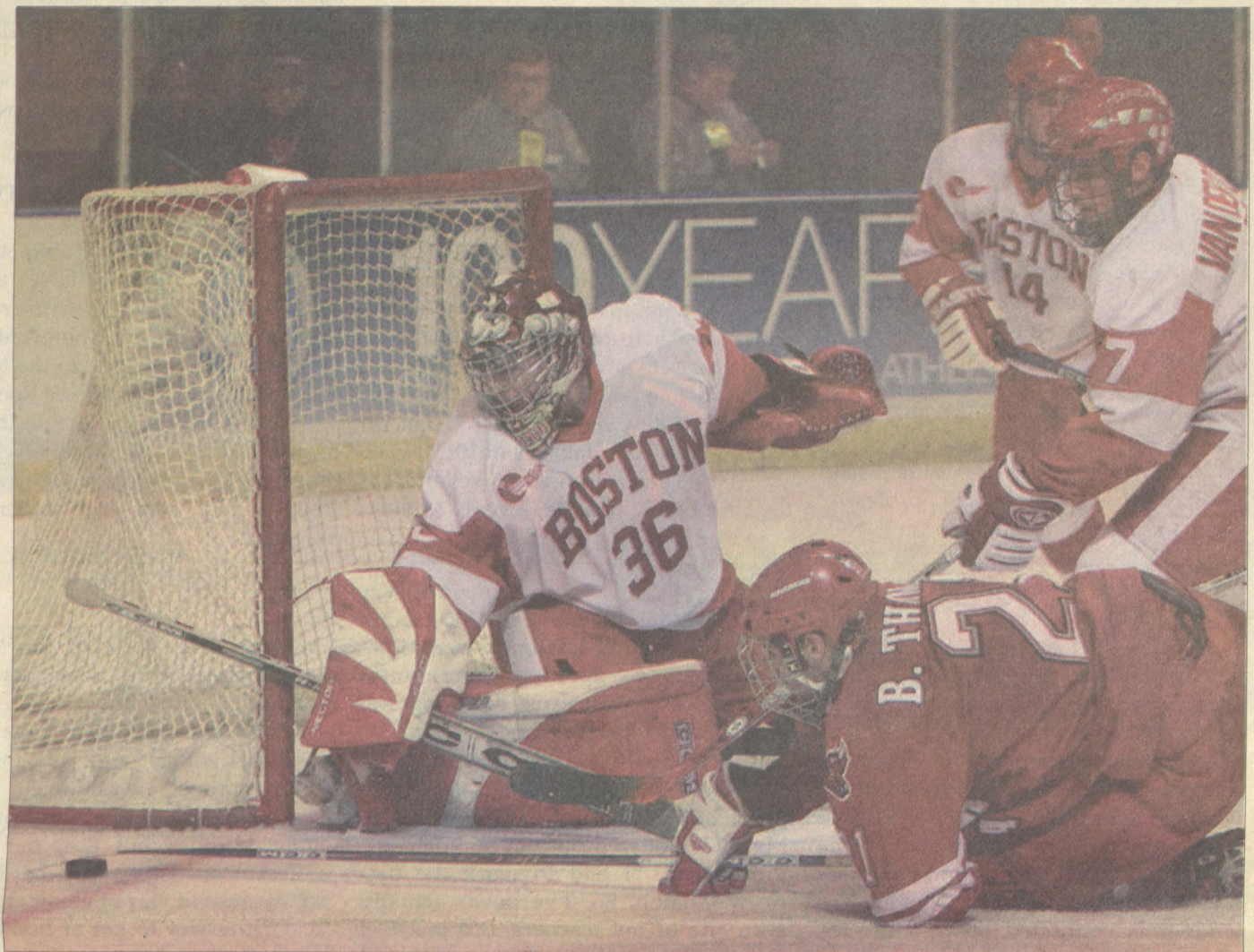


photo by Michelle Bishop

Bill Thomas tries to keep a handle on the puck while Boston University goalie John Curry looks on during Friday's NCAA Northeast regional game against Boston University at the DCU Center in Worcester, Mass.

NATHAN LEETE

SPORTS EDITOR

On Friday, March 24 the UNO hockey team played the biggest game in program history, a first round berth in the NCAA tournament. Boston University may have skated away from the DCU Center in

Worcester, Mass. with a 9-2 victory, but the Mavericks still walked away with the best season finish since the program's inception.

"When you build a program from the ground up like we've been doing, you look to make steps, and obviously this was an extension of where we needed to be,"

said Mike Kemp, UNO head coach "We wanted to make a step to being a national contender and this was the next step."

It's never easy for a team to come into a national tournament and win in their first appearance, but UNO had an even greater mountain to climb by facing the No. 1 team in the nation. BU was also the

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## Students' email abuse gets too personal for some professors

MATT GOODLETT

STAFF WRITER

Dear Professor, F\*\*K YOU!!!

While the above is a hypothetical example of a student crossing the boundaries of propriety in an email interaction with a teacher, some professors on campus are weary of student emails that become abusive.

Joan Latchaw, an English professor at UNO, had several problems involving student emails in the past.

"[The emails] weren't threatening, but they were abusive. Cursing, attacks on my teaching methods and on a personal level. In one case I was advised

to contact campus security," she said. "They wanted to see the email and put it on file. [Security] came to my class that day to make sure there were no problems."

Latchaw said that Campus Security told her that problems involving email abuse are becoming more common.

Consequences for students who abuse email vary, but range from loss of email privileges, academic disciplinary actions and may even result in removal of a student from the class.

Latchaw said one case many years ago involved a student who went off of prescribed medication.

"The person was an 'A' student

See **EMAIL ABUSE**: Page 2

## Student Senate commends wrestlers

SCOTT STEWART

SENIOR STAFF WRITER / SYSTEMS MANAGER

The Student Senate conducted a short meeting Thursday, where the primary business consisted of passing two letters of commendation and sending a previous resolution back to committee.

"We need to keep the momentum going and finish strong," said President Steve Massara. "I definitely feel that Student Government is losing vision. We have another month."

Massara went on to encourage senators to introduce legislation, such as the planting of another tree for Earth Day, April 22. That is also the deadline for senators who signed Massara's Code of Constituent Accountability pledge to fulfill

their obligation to meet twice with their constituents.

Senate Speaker Aaron Gilliland encouraged increased drafting of legislation within the Senate.

"We need more legislation," Speaker Aaron Gilliland said. "Legislation is an opportunity for Student Senate to record what we actually get done."

The senate began business by reviewing a resolution enabling committee chairs to print documents in the Student Government office, which had its sunset clause extended on March 3 but was later vetoed by Massara.

"I feel that everyone should be able to use that computer," Massara said, responding to why he vetoed the resolution.

The motion to recommit the resolution

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## News you can use

COMPILED BY KIMBERLY BRYANT  
STAFF WRITER

### Susan B.'s Coffeehouse on financial planning March 28

Wealth advisor Roland Manarin will be on campus to offer women financial planning advice at the Chancellor's Commission on the Status of Women Susan B. Anthony Coffeehouse Tuesday, March 28. The coffeehouse, titled "Financial Planning for Women," will be held from 10 to 11 a.m. in the Milo Bail Student Center Council Room.

Manarin, president and founder of the Manarin Investment Counsel, Ltd, will discuss his investment philosophy that is based on education, opportunity, common sense and discipline. In January 2004 he was named one of America's top 100 wealth advisors by *Barrons Magazine*.

Weiyu Guo, associate professor of finance, banking and law at UNO,

will co-present at the coffeehouse. She will discuss the four decisions to be made when formulating an investment strategy.

Refreshments will be served. For more information, contact coffeehouse facilitators Esther Scarpello at 554-3660 or Guo at 554-2655.

### Forensics team to host "Night Before Nationals" reception

All faculty, staff and students are invited to come and wish the 2005-2006 UNO Forensics Team well before they leave to represent the university at the American Forensics Association National Individual Events Tournament. The "Night Before Nationals" reception will be held Tuesday, March 28, at 5:30 p.m. in Arts and Sciences Hall, Room 101.

The team will present several of their nationally qualified events as they

prepare for competition.

Events being presented will include: Persuasive speaking, after-dinner speaking, dramatic interpretation, dramatic duo interpretation and program oral interpretation.

For more information, contact Susan Schnase at 554-3967 or sschnase@mail.unomaha.edu.

### CCMA to host Annual Diversity Awards reception April 12

The Chancellor's Commission on Multicultural Affairs at UNO will host its annual Diversity Awards reception Wednesday, April 12. The event will be held from 2 to 3:30 p.m. in the Milo Bail Student Center Chancellor's Room.

At the reception, the CCMA will recognize the 2006 Diversity Awards recipients. The awards recognize current UNO faculty, staff and students who

have demonstrated a commitment to diversity on the university campus or in the community through mentoring, outreach initiatives or other activities that advance the institution's goal of inclusion.

The program will begin at 2:30 p.m. with remarks by Mel Clancy, director of Project Achieve at UNO.

The CCMA serves as an advisory to the chancellor and other university administrators on issues that relate to diversity on campus. The commission's goal is to recognize individuals that exemplify a commitment to diversity and meeting the Diversity Action Plan goals.

Those interested in attending should R.S.V.P. by calling 554-2872 before April 5. For more information about the reception, contact Karen Hayes at 554-3240 or karenhayes@mail.unomaha.edu.

From **EMAIL ABUSE**: Page 1

and afterward apologized profusely. We were able to get past it, and I later even gave the student counseling about careers," she said.

Latchaw found that there is a separate procedure for students who are education majors, when she received an abusive email from one. The program, called Dispositions, focuses on changing the student's behavior. The student is counseled about attitudes, responsibilities and obligations, ethical issues and other professional aspects of his or her future careers. Latchaw wishes that similar programs were in place for students from other majors.

Many students still prefer to email rather than call their professors.

Craig Purdy, a sophomore at UNO

who is currently taking three online courses at Metropolitan Community College, said that because of the nature of an online course, he emails his MCC teachers rather than calls.

"There's virtually no face time with [teachers] in the internet courses at Metro. It's offered but not mandatory," Purdy said. "I had to work the day of orientation. So, I've never actually seen any of my teachers. It'd just feel awkward to talk to them now, and email just seems less intrusive."

Sophomore Todd Mulroy, who attended and lived at UNL and as a freshman, said now that he's enrolled at UNO he emails his professors more regularly because he lives in Bellevue.

"UNO's a commuter campus. When

I was at UNL, a lot of times it was easy to meet with a teacher during their office hours and when I email a professor they don't have to be at home or at their office, and can answer on their own time," he said.

Not every teacher offers their home phone number, but Jerrold Simmons, professor of history, said he does, and not because of fear of email abuse.

"I'm easier to get at home. I don't have email at home so I can respond to students quickly," Simmons said. "If [students] email me, it might take a few days for me to respond."

Simmons doesn't provide his school email on his syllabus, but said it would be easy enough for students to get. He said on average he gets a couple of calls at home a week regarding questions about upcoming exams, upcoming absences or requests to make up exams.

Latchaw said she does not provide her home phone number on her syllabus, but has given it out to students, and has never had any

problems involving student abuse over the telephone.

Simmons also said he has never received inappropriate phone calls at home.

"If I started getting consistent crank calls, I might remove my phone number and go exclusively to email," Simmons said.

Latchaw worries about the affects of email abuse on teachers, especially those who are new to the academic setting.

"It's very traumatic emotionally and professionally. Teachers need to know how to handle these things; they often don't understand what their rights are," she said.



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## She's the man: UNO female student literally wears the pants in drag show

MICHAEL McMANUS  
ASSISTANT FEATURES/ENTERTAINMENT  
EDITOR

As Teresa Cassel grabs the microphone, she prepares herself for the performance of a lifetime.

The crowd is excited, her makeup is perfect and her song is well-rehearsed. The house lights dim, the spots turn on, she takes a deep breath, and... "Rollin'" by Limp Bizkit blasts through the speaker system.

Terri, as she likes to be called, is an architectural engineering major at UNO. When she isn't in the classroom, she's often found strutting her stuff on numerous local stages.

But Terri isn't your "average" female performer. Her makeup usually consists of a drawn-on goatee, and her clothing ensembles often include jerseys and cargo pants.

Terri is a Kingsmen: A group of local female male-impersonators who literally "wear the pants."

Terri began her transformation more than a year ago, after being approached by one of the girls who had created the concept.

"I went (to the first meeting) and nobody was there," she said. "I thought, 'Oh man, this is not going to happen.' But I filled out the questionnaires and we talked. I agreed to come to the next rehearsal, and before we knew it, we were booked at The Max."

A year has passed since then, and the original founders are gone. The group, however, is stronger than ever. With nine total performers, the Kingsmen never disappoint.

The thing that separates them



courtesy of Stephanie Cassel

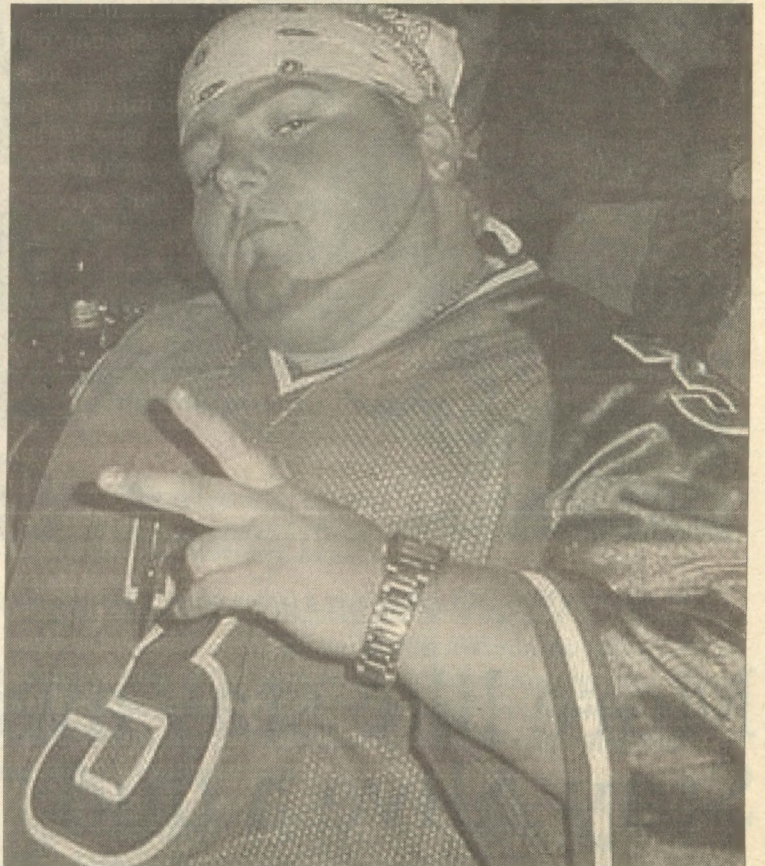
The Kingsmen are a group of females who impersonate males. Terri Cassel performs above.

### Drag show etiquette

-Come early, the shows tend to be standing room only. The group goes by "drag king time," so they might not start on time, but the doors will open and the place will fill quickly.

-Don't forget to tip the performers. All the money goes directly to the show, nothing goes home with the kings.

-Don't talk to your friends on the phone, it is rude and a king will most likely snatch up your phone



courtesy of Stephanie Cassel

After coming out to her mother and joining the Kingsmen, Terri Cassel said she feels more comfortable in her skin.

from other drag performers is that they vocalize.

"We try and actually sing the majority of our songs," Terri said. "It makes for a more interactive show. There is more room for error, but what can we say, we love to live life on the edge!"

The group dabbles in every type of music: hard-hitting rock, gangsta rap and even fun-loving country and R&B.

People are often confused about the motives of the Kingsmen. When Terri tells someone she is a drag king, she gets one of two responses: "Wow that is really cool, I want to come to a show!" or "So you want to be a man?" The answer to the latter is no.

"I do not want to be a man. People are very irrational sometimes," she says. "I dress like a man because being on stage is good fun. Where else can I be on stage, completely mess up

my performance, jump on a table, drink someone's beer and get money jammed in my pants? It's a rush!"

Although Terri is enjoying life as a member of the Kingsmen now, it took her awhile to become comfortable in her own skin.

When she was about 20, Terri experienced quite a rough patch in life. It was the normal "life-altering changes that every 20-year-old thinks he or she goes through, only to realize later how lame they truly were," as she put it. By this time she had been dating women for about three years, but something was still bothering her.

One day she took a big step and called her mother. Terri told her mom that she was going to swing by the house to talk to her about something. Her mom was

making dinner, so Terri sat down and completely lost it.

"I was crying like a baby, my mom looked at me in disbelief and asked, 'What's wrong?'" She told her mother that the one thing she never wanted to do was disappoint her, but for a long time she had been living as a lesbian.

Her mother looked at Terri, chuckled, and said, "Oh I thought you were dropping out of school... Are you going to stay for dinner?"

Terri's mother is now her biggest fan. She attends every Kingsmen show and is very active in her daughter's life.

"My mom is one of those up-in-your-face kind of women," she said.

Terri now feels comfortable with herself, but can also understand that some may not be.

"I don't want people to cater to me because I'm a lesbian," she said. "I have always just wanted

See CASSEL: Page 7

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Characters from *Stay Alive* mull over a laptop game in the new movie now in theaters. *courtesy*

## More like stay away: Stay Alive a dud

JONATHAN HARROLD  
STAFF WRITER

*Stay Alive* is a scary movie about a scary game, which would have been better as just a game.

It's not a completely terrible movie; there's a relatively original premise and some

good scares. Unfortunately, a lot of movies have that. Scary movies full of blood and dark places are a dime a dozen and without something distinguishing, they slide right under the radar and out of theaters. *Stay Alive's* only draw is its connection to video game culture. Sadly, that's where things start to fall apart.

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## After six years, Saddle Creek makes a return to SXSW

CHARLEY REED  
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

If you want one sure bet in the ever changing world of popular music, it is that Austin, Texas' annual "South by Southwest" entertainment festival is one of the most influential events a band can attend. If you don't think so, just ask Saddle Creek Records' mainstay acts Cursive, The Faint and Bright Eyes, all of which participated in the nine-day festival back in 2000 before each becoming synonymous with the recent boom in the "indie music" scene.

South by Southwest, or SXSW for short, is an independent entertainment company out of Austin, Texas that began its now world-famous "Music and Media Conference & Festival" back in 1987. Since then it has expanded from a music-based event into one that houses showcases, conferences and contests for film and other interactive media.

Seeing how well it worked for its now most well-known artists, Saddle Creek asked all of the bands on its label to head try SXSW, hoping some could participate at this year's festival, which ran from March 10-19. "It puts you in front of an industry crowd, meaning bands get more publicity and more attention," Jason Kulbel, press representative for Saddle Creek, said. "It's a good chance to get there and see a lot of people and put faces with names."

The pitch worked, and so, more than half a decade since the well known Omaha-based label sent any acts down to the Lone

Star State for the event, Saddle Creek finally made its return. This year the label sent down two of its up-and-coming artists, Omaha-born rockers Criteria and one of the label's most recent signees out of San Francisco, Two Gallants.

Early reports are that while both bands had good turn-outs at each of their two performances, it was the newer face to the label, Two Gallants, that had the best results. This was partly because, having played the event in 2005 before signing with Saddle Creek, people were anxious to hear material from the group's Saddle Creek debut, *What the Toll Tells*, which was released in February of this year.

"They were a 'buzz' band going into it," Kulbel said. "Their shows were well attended."

The Saddle Creek bands were not the only ones in Austin with a connection to Omaha. Two Omaha-based artists, Tilly and the Wall and Charlamagne were also at the event. Of the two, Tilly and the Wall, a member of a label called Team Love, went into the festival with an album only a week away from release. Already popular regionally, this helped make it one of the more attended acts of the festival.

Kulbel said a lot of the people who could not gain entrance had to watch the band from the street outside of the bar that Tilly and the Wall played in.

"Their night show had 100 to 200 people waiting outside the venue trying to get in," Kulbel said. One of the things that Saddle Creek

See SADDLE CREEK: Page 7

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**IN THEATRES FRIDAY APRIL 7TH!**

## UNO softball increases win streak to 18

LIZ SELZER  
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

The No. 14 UNO softball team traveled to Quincy, Ill., where they went 5-0 in the Quincy Invitational and increased their win-streak to 18 games.

Due to the snowstorm, this was the first game the Mavericks played since spring break, when they went on a 12 game win-streak in the Rebel Spring Games.

The Mavs squeezed in five games over the weekend, against Quincy University, Wartburg University, Grand Valley State, Lake Superior State and Missouri-St. Louis, and came out victorious in all of them.

On Saturday, the Mavericks defeated host Quincy University 6-4 in the opener, edged Wartburg 2-1, and then shut out Grand Valley State 6-0. Sunday, UNO came out with the bats blazing, beating Lake Superior 7-0, and snatched a 2-0 victory against Missouri-St. Louis.

Sophomore third baseman Leslie Svoboda stole the show Saturday at the plate, as she smashed four home runs, tallied seven RBIs and went 8-for-9 on the day. All three pitchers, Cayte Billman, Taren Tuley and Cheris Kuster, racked up a win between the three games.

The bats were hot for the Mavericks as they collected nine hits in the game against Quincy. Billman took the mound first and pitched a tough game, only giving up four hits. The Eagles exploited three Maverick errors to help them score at the plate.

Tuley improved to 9-0 on the season, as she pitched the nail biter victory against the Wartburg Knights. The Mavericks were the first to score in the second inning off of a Knights error, and Svoboda smashed a homer in the fourth to give them a 2-0 lead. At the top of the sixth, Wartburg got in a run off an error, but it wasn't enough for the win.

Kuster pitched her third shut-out of the year against the Grand Valley State Lakers in their last game on Saturday. Svoboda shattered two

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From **HOCKEY**: Page 1

only team in the country to win conference titles for regular season and tournament play this year.

The Mavericks didn't show any signs of intimidation when they took the ice and jumped out to a 1-0 lead on a power play three minutes and 32 seconds into the first period. Bill Thomas redirected a rebound over BU goalie John Curry.

UNO held the lead for most of the first period until BU's Bryan Ewing scored a goal at the tail-end of a flurry of shots by the Terriers in front of UNO's net with 1:36 left to play. The teams went into the first break with the score knotted up at 1-1.

"I was really proud of the way our guys came out and took it to them in the first period," Kemp said.

Jerad Kaufmann was a key part in UNO's first period success, wowing fans with nine saves, including one against three unopposed Terriers with just under 12 minutes left in the period.

"I felt great today, I was focused all day and knew I had to play big and face a lot of shots from a team like this," Kaufmann said. "That first period I was just focused—red hot—and I made some great saves. I kept the game close and that's what I wanted to do all three periods."

The Terriers' momentum wasn't slowed during intermission. They jumped out to a 2-1 lead 4:53 into the second stanza when BU's Chris Higgins scored the first goal of what would become the fastest hat trick in NCAA regional history and the fourth fastest in NCAA tournament history. Higgins scored two more goals in just 5:31, beating a previous record of 24:07.

At the 7:52 mark, BU's Dan Spang started a scoring frenzy that resulted in both teams combining to score four goals in just 1:07 with a one-timer from the right hand corner of the net.

Fourteen seconds later, Tomas Klempa stole the puck in the BU zone, spun 180 degrees and fired a wrist shot past Curry to bring the Mavs back within one. Unfortunately, it would be the last goal UNO scored this season.

Higgins picked up his second goal 32 seconds after Klempa's, and Kenny Roche tacked on another goal 21 seconds later.

Higgins' second goal took all momentum away from UNO, Kemp said.

"You're scrambling around and they went up 3-1 and then we scored, but then gave it right back and I think that was a turning point," Kemp said. "That took any momentum we got away and then we gave another one up real quick. All the sudden we were down 5-2, 6-2 and it snowballs. Our bench sagged pretty dramatically after that point."

Higgins completed his record-shattering hat trick at the 10:24 mark of the second period, beating Kaufmann on a low shot from the left side. It marked the freshman's eighth career goal and first hat trick.

Roche added one more goal for the



photo by Michelle Bishop

UNO's Bill Bagron (center) looks to put the puck on Boston College goalie John Curry while being pressured by Dan Spang (left) during Friday's NCAA Northeast regional game against Boston University at the DCU Center in Worcester, Mass.

Terriers at the 17:17 mark to take a 7-2 lead into the second intermission.

"We really weren't playing with the desperation that we needed in a 1-1 game like this on the road, in an environment like this with their fans supporting them," Thomas said.

After Kaufmann gave up seven goals in two periods, Kemp thought about putting sophomore goalie Eric Aarnio in for the third period but felt Kaufmann deserved a chance to finish.

"Jerad has been carrying the mail for us virtually since Thanksgiving and I wanted to be fair to him," Kemp said. "I thought he was going to be able to hang in there and finish strong until the end."

BU sophomore Ryan Weston picked up his fourth goal of the season 9:04 into the final period when he tipped in a goal, and Brian McGuirk picked up his fifth of the season 3:09 later, to give the Terriers a 9-2 lead and close out scoring for the game. Aarnio replaced Kaufmann in UNO's net and picked up one save to close the game.

Although the Mavericks did not want to end their season on a 9-2 blowout, they are still proud of their accomplishments this season.

"Obviously, we're taking away a lot of positives for the season," Kemp said. "We've got a national scoring leader,

conference player of the year and we're one of the top scoring teams in the nation. I think we're seeing a constant improvement in this team. The way the season ended doesn't diminish what the accomplishments were this year."

The Mavericks ended the season with a 20-15-6 overall record and longest lasting season in program history.

"It's such a young program. Making it to this point right now holds some real promise for the future," Thomas said.

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## The Sunday night movie club

Half a decade ago, a couple very good friends of mine—both former UNO students—invited me to see a movie with them at the Oakview AMC Theater. They told me they were trying to get a few of their friends to start coming every Sunday night to see a movie with them.

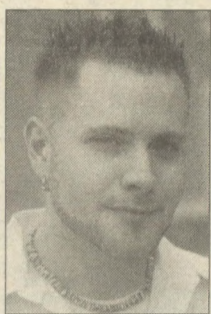
The plan worked out pretty well; before the last showing of the movie we were seeing each night, we would meet up a few hours early at Village Inn (which is a few blocks away) and study for a couple hours. After everyone finally met up, we would meander up the street to see our weekly movie.

After about six months, we had quite a big crowd coming with us. It was beginning to become something my friends and I could count on; once a week, our friends would get together and make our little pilgrimage up to the theater. I remember one time, there had to be at least 18 people with us. I think we actually filled up an entire row of seats in the theater that night.

After awhile, it settled back down to an amount consistent with our core group of friends. Most of us were in college, so sometimes we didn't have time to go out and see each other during the week, but we could at least always count on seeing each other on Sunday night. And we were *religious* about it. One of those years, there wasn't one single night that the group didn't meet up, even when Christmas fell on a Sunday.

Three years and enough money spent to buy about one percent of the AMC franchise later, our Sunday night movie club still carried on. After a while, things began to wind down. Jen, one of the two founding friends, has since moved to Japan after graduating. And the other, Lindsay, moved to Las Vegas. Still though, I tried to carry the torch to keep our little gathering alive, at least for a bit longer. There was a

### Manic Digression



Josh Bashara

unique comfort in familiarity and routine that I never really valued much until after this time of my life.

Long before the movie night tradition started, some other friends of mine made a habit of going to Buffalo Wild Wings every Tuesday night. After a while, we had at least 20 people up there every Tuesday. It was something that we began to count on, one day out of every week. As I said earlier, a lot of friends

don't realistically see each other even once a week. This gave us a reason to.

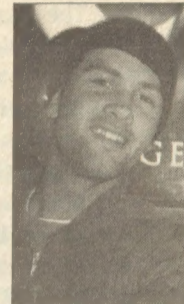
The reason I'm such an advocate for this type of thing is because of the bond it can form between friends. It's comforting to know that on a certain day or night of the week, you will always have something to do and someone to see. Another benefit being that it's a great way to make new friends. Sometimes it can be awkward to meet someone that you think would be a cool person to get to know, and try to initially start hanging out. A weekly gathering is a perfect excuse. I met a ton of people during those years that came to our Sunday night movies, invited by myself or someone else in the group.

Having a weekly tradition while you're in college—or any other time—is just a great way to get closer with friends you already have, and form new ones. We came to be pretty nostalgic about our Sunday movie night, which is why we kept going, even during the final year when it was just three or four people.

Eventually it came to an end, and that was that. Now, later in life, many of us have either graduated or moved to different cities scattered across the county. But just as I still do, I know that everyone is able look back from time to time with a smile, remembering those years that we were part of the Sunday night movie club.

## I'm Coming Out

### How Typical



Michael McManus

In today's society we often hear the phrase "Coming out of the closet," but what does it mean? Who was in the closet, and why were they in there? I can think of a cornucopia of more suitable places to hide, but for some reason people continue to go into this "closet."

OK, so unless you've been living under a rock or perhaps among acres of corn in western Nebraska, I think it's safe to assume the majority of us know what "coming out of the closet" means. Simply put, it's a personal acceptance of one's inner being; in my case, my homosexuality. Once the individual finds acceptance inside, they "come out" to friends and family letting their secret be known to the masses.

However, unless you've actually gone through the coming-out procedure, you most likely know little about it. It's something that shouldn't be taken lightly but often is, due to a lack of understanding.

First of all, there are quite a few stages to the process of coming out. It's not something to be thrown around lightly, so an avid amount of time and thought should be put into the procedure.

A decision to come out of the closet actually starts on the day that person's first same-sex attraction is realized. Those first "Why am I looking at someone of the same sex" questions are ultimately preparing you for the day you decide to take the big step from your "closet." These attractions follow you around everyday while you try and figure out the right way to deal with them. Should I tell someone? Pretend they aren't happening? These questions lead to the first step of coming out, which is coming out to yourself.

Getting the nerves and courage to finally accept your sexuality is one that can take years. What was once thought as a "phase" simply never went away, and has now become a reality. This part of the process is one of the hardest and can be quite emotionally draining. One day you'll be accepting, the next you'll feel guilt, a few hours later you'll be depressed. It really never ends until you make the next step, coming out to someone close to you.

Once the thought of sharing your secret with someone else crosses your mind, a lot must be taken into consideration. Why do I want to come out? Who am I going to tell? How are they going to react? This stage can often lead to more confusion and depression. As humans we naturally fear questions we don't know the answers too.

Why do I want to come out? This is without a doubt the most serious step in the process. What are your reasons behind telling someone your secret? Do you feel

like you need to share this information to become fully happy? Or maybe because you want to meet other people much like yourself? If so, those are the right reasons. If your goal is to shock or hurt someone, I would rethink your reasoning.

Who am I going to tell? This is a tough question for me to answer, but it's usually easy for the person coming out to decide. Confide in someone you know is accepting of your lifestyle—you don't want the first

person you tell to condemn you straight to hell do you? Try finding someone who has gone through the process already. They can potentially give you the guidance and encouragement to tell the ones you may be fearing.

How are they going to react? This is a pretty easy one to answer. There are really only two reactions to someone who is coming out. It's either OK or it's not. People will either love you for the person you are, or tell you that your homosexuality is wrong.

You can usually tell how people are going to react before the discussion. Maybe discuss something happening in the gay community, and see how they react. I asked my grandma if she liked the Ellen DeGeneres Show, and she said "No, she is a lesbian."

I now know my grandparents will never accept my homosexuality, so I don't plan on ever telling them. In my mind, you pick your own battles. My grandparents are getting old and that's not one I want to fight.

Once you have answered those three questions it's on to the one question that I found to be the most difficult. How do you tell them? My initial way was a failure. I did it over the phone. I told my parents and they both broke down; they cried for the majority of the conversation and did nothing more than condemn my announcement. I regret my decision to call them, and now personally feel the best way to tell someone would be in person or through a letter. The benefit of telling them in person is that you are there to see their reaction, which means you can respond appropriately and show them the emotion that you are feeling. On the other hand, a letter gives the reader some much-needed time to react and dwell on the issue on their own.

Coming out of the closet is a milestone in many people's lives and one that I will never forget. It's a chance to find acceptance among your friends and family, but most importantly with yourself. I hope this helped you gain a better understanding of this process, because as minuscule as it may seem to the person hearing it, it takes an unprecedented amount of courage and strength from the person saying it.

Send questions and comments to mmcmanus@mail.unomaha.edu.

**A decision to come out of the closet actually starts on the day that person's first same-sex attraction is realized.**

## Gubernatorial debate a snore

The first high-profile debate of this election cycle took place last week between the three Republican gubernatorial candidates - Tom Osborne, Dave Heineman and Dave Nabity. The debate was sponsored by KETV and hosted at the Strauss Performing Arts Center on the UNO Campus.

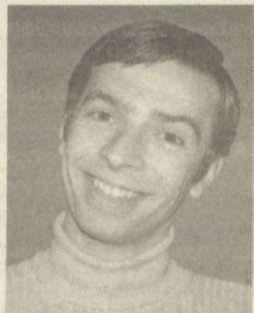
Most people found out about the debate after turning on the TV and expecting to watch *Desperate Housewives*. Unfortunately they were disappointed to see three men who looked nothing like Teri Hatcher.

For me, watching a political debate is somewhat like watching NASCAR. Many people watch NASCAR for the crashes. When I watch a debate, I'm hoping for fiery 15-car pile-up. Unfortunately, this debate lacked a huge pile-up.

The debater resembled a 2004 presidential debate - which isn't a compliment.

The rules hammered out by the campaigns made the debate seem more like a series of campaign speeches than an actual debate. There was no interaction

### Moderate Response



Ryan Renner

between the candidates and there wasn't even interaction between the moderators and the candidates. A candidate could have suggested abolishing every single tax in Nebraska without having to support the idea.

This debate did have one thing the presidential debates in 2004 lacked - Ralph Nader (a.k.a. David Nabity). Nabity, who is a distant third in nearly every poll, made the debate at least

mildly entertaining to watch. He effectively portrayed himself as the most conservative candidate in the race, but that alone isn't going to win him the nomination.

For most Nebraskans, this debate was their first extended exposure to Governor Heineman, and his performance wasn't very impressive. His answers and delivery were way too scripted. He also lacked any type of enthusiasm. I suffer from insomnia, and I think I may have found a cure - listening to Dave Heineman.

Tom Osborne didn't have a very

See **MODERATE RESPONSE**: Page 7



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From **MODERATE RESPONSE:** Page 6

impressive performance either. Although I must give him credit, because he held off mentioning the Cornhuskers until the very end of the debate. Osborne also lacked enthusiasm, which made me wonder how he was ever a football coach. I guess talking about Nebraska is just that depressing.

Finally, we get to Dave Nabity. What Osborne and Heineman lacked in enthusiasm and passion, Nabity made up for. Unfortunately, when Nabity opened his mouth, some of the sentences and ideas strewn together just didn't add up.

Nabity did provide the most interesting answer in the debate. When I say interesting, I mean idiotic. Nabity was asked how Nebraska should deal with its methamphetamine problem. Nabity responded by saying citizens that turn-in meth users are fearful because the meth user can post bail and track the snitch down. He continued his answer by saying, "I don't think we're going to be able to get the citizens to step up and get active at trying to catch these people unless they can conceal and carry weapons. I think

it's very important that we change the gun laws so that we have the citizens step up and start helping law enforcement so we can start finding these people and putting them away."

That answer was idiotic on two different levels – probably more. It's the most idiotic justification for conceal and carry I've ever heard, and it was the stupidest solution to the drug problem in Nebraska I've ever heard. He hit the daily double with that answer.

According to Nabity, the War on Drugs is an actual war. The only answer to this war is arming our citizen militia with concealed weapons because AK-47s and shotguns are too bulky to use in hunting down and capturing the methamphetamine users. The War on Drugs can only be won through vigilante justice and if concealed weapons aren't enough, we may need to equip our citizens with low-grade explosives.

So, what can you take away from this rather shallow analysis of the debate? Well, if you're looking for a charismatic gubernatorial candidate, keep looking.

From **CASSEL:** Page 3

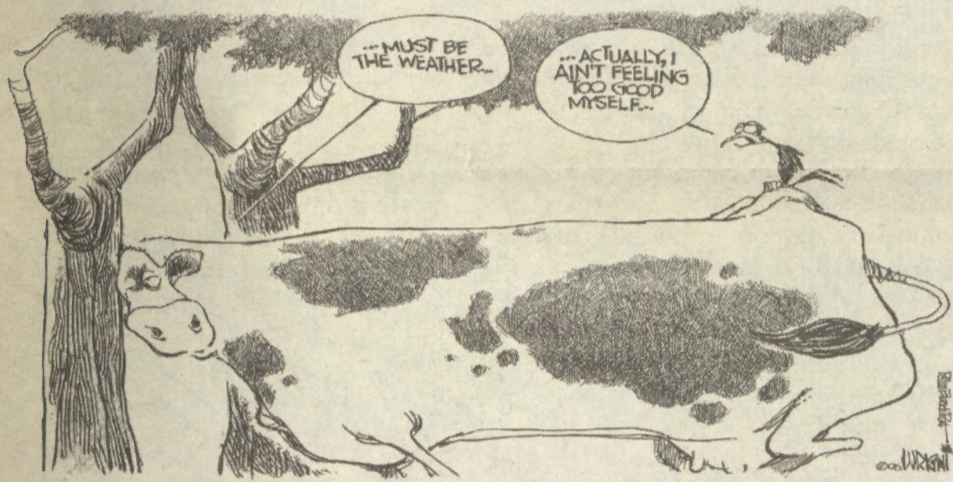
people to not judge me before they meet me. Being gay is different because in one aspect it is a major part of your life, but in another aspect it is such a small portion of who someone is."

Her advice to UNO students is simple: be true to yourself. Don't let people tell you who you are, because only you know what truly makes you happy.

As for the Kingsmen, the "boys" have become really close.

"It's one of those things that when I get older I will be excited to tell people that I was part of," Terri said.

Check out the Kingsmen every fourth Friday of the month at Flix (10<sup>th</sup> and Pacific), where the men are men, and so are the women.



MAD COW MEETS BIRD FLU

From **GAS PRICES:** Page 1

increase in energy prices.

"Gas rates were one of the primary factors in causing the projected deficit," Totten said. "The rates have improved some since earlier this year. So for example, in November 2005 compared to November 2004, the rates were up 50 percent, but in February 2006 compared to February 2005, the rates were up 30 percent. The rates are still up compared to last year, but the amount percent increase has mitigated some."

One university service not seeing a sharp increase in operating expenses this year due to the high gas prices is the intercampus shuttle service.

"The cost has not really affected the campus shuttle at all," said Mose Turner, a representative of Chief Bus Services, which operates the shuttle service. "There

is nothing passed on to the university for that gas."

The recent request for additional funding for the campus shuttle is derived from an expansion to the service in anticipation of the reduction of parking in the near future by proposed construction projects and to prepare for future fuel costs.

Even with the additional funding, university officials are unsure what the impact of utility expenses will be over the next few months, with an additional round of gas price increases possibly arriving this summer.

"It's hard for me to say from a university-wide perspective if that's going to be sufficient to cover all of the campuses' utility expenditures," Totten said. "But it certainly will help considerably."

From **STUDENT SENATE:** Page 1

to the budget committee for further consideration passed in a *viva voce* vote, meaning the computer privileges will be restored for some senators but printing privileges will be revoked for committee chairs.

In new business, senators approved a commendation for Les Sigman, a UNO wrestler recently named a four-time national champion and the NCAA Division II Wrestling Tournament outstanding wrestler. The senate also approved a letter of commendation to the entire UNO wrestling team for their third consecutive national championship.

"As a team, the Mavericks ranked third in the nation with a team cumulative GPA of 3.409, epitomizing the best in student-athlete achievement," the letter read.

Prior to the meeting, Student Organization and Leadership Program Director Barb Treadway named Vice President VaShawn Smith the student leader of the month for, among other achievements, his role in chairing the Student Activities

Budget Commission.

Massara also mentioned that Student Government is looking at creating a new lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning agency. During funding allocations earlier this month, Student Government agreed to set aside \$11,000 for the possible creation of such an agency.

"We are looking at pursuing this," Massara said. "The month of April will be devoted to looking into the issue with this."

Speaking for Latavia Adams, Chief Administrative Officer Shayna Royal reminded senators that there were many open positions, including nine seats for the election commission, to be named next meeting.

"We have several openings," Royal said.

Students interested in working with Student Government can find the openings listed on their Web site at [sguno.unomaha.edu](http://sguno.unomaha.edu) or by contacting their Student Government representative.

From **SADDLE CREEK:** Page 4

really enjoyed this time around was how accommodating the city was. "They're gracious hosts," said Kulbel, "It's cool how [the city residents] all really embrace the event."

When asked about when Saddle Creek might return, he could not give an exact time frame, but was adamant about the importance of getting back to Austin sooner rather than later.

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From **STAY ALIVE:** Page 4

*Stay Alive* wants to appeal to the true gamer, not just the average, casual one. It's the hardcore, stay-up-all-night, shun-social-contact-so-you-can-sit-in-the-dark-in-front-of-a-glowing-screen player. To do this, the writers peppered the movie with 'in-scene' references. The characters all play on Alienware laptops. They talk about *Silent Hill 4* and *Fatal Frame*, two real-life games similar to the one in the movie. They wear gigantic headsets and spew pseudo-scene vocabulary. Minor stumbles aside, it's all going smoothly until one of the main characters walks past a bunch of other gamers, all of whom sound like they're playing the original *Donkey Kong* on their state-of-the-art laptops.

Other inaccuracies pop up which will quite possibly only be noticed by real gamers (Everyone can play the game with just the one disc? The

most incredible next-gen graphics you've never seen can be run on a PS2?), but in a movie designed for such people, that's a huge problem. All the in-culture trappings and references will be lost on most anyone who isn't a hardcore gamer, but the lame representation of gaming will leave real gamers either unsatisfied or down-right insulted.

The rest of the movie is a strictly by-the-numbers scary movie affair. Evil, bloody-faced main baddie? Check. People going into dark places they obviously shouldn't? Check. Characters with "cool" names? Uh, let's see. Hutch. Phineas. Abigail. Swink. October. Yup. Check, check, check, check and double if not triple-check, on October. Do you think she's Goth? Of course she is. Were her parents *trying* to make her Goth?

Finally, the movie just leaves the viewer

with way too many unanswered questions and unresolved plotlines. Not the 'setting up a sequel' kind, either. For instance, maybe I just don't pay attention, but it wasn't until near the end of the movie that I found out where the movie was set, and though it's in the deep south (New Orleans to be precise), not one person in the movie has a Southern accent. It must be because after evacuating the Big Easy, they repopulated it first with a bunch of people from Hollywood.

All in all, *Stay Alive* does nothing to really compel anyone to pay good money to see it. As I said before, it's not totally worthless, so if you need a rental and like a scare, it might be worth it. A couple words to the wise, though. First, it's PG-13, so those looking for boobs and gore should go elsewhere. Second, Frankie Muniz is in the movie and is the biggest name in the flick.

From **SOFTBALL:** Page 5

solo home runs, bringing her season total to nine. Lauren McArthur also gave a stellar performance at the plate as she went 2-for-4 with three RBIs and a home run. Her three-run homer in the seventh inning helped seal the deal for the Mavericks.

Sunday, the Mavericks shut out both of their opponents with their consistent defense. The Mavs beat Lake Superior 7-0 before squeezing in a 2-0 victory against Missouri-St. Louis.

The Mavericks will travel to South Dakota on Tuesday to play a doubleheader against the Coyotes. Game time is scheduled for 3:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.

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